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OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	Mr. Wall 2B44			<i>[Signature]</i>	
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3	<i>Russ Helmer</i>				
4	<i>CI/EXO/PAS</i>				
5	<i>2E29</i>				
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
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Attached FYI.					
I hope to get us together soon for a status check on progress.					
<i>3 FYI</i>					
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM RELEASE IN FULL 1998					
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SDBreckinridge/2E24/5527				10 Sept '76	
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Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Withheld Data in JFK Probe

After President John F. Kennedy was struck down on Nov. 22, 1963, the Central Intelligence Agency received evidence suggesting that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro arranged the assassination in retaliation for attempts on his life.

Yet sources privy to the secret discussions at the highest levels of the CIA during those hectic days now tell us that the CIA deliberately withheld the evidence from the Warren Commission investigating Kennedy's death.

Our sources cite two reasons for holding back this evidence. One was a resolve to cover up the secret that the CIA had enlisted Mafia mobsters to kill Castro.

There also was a legitimate concern that the Castro revelations might inflame the American people, whose grief could have turned into a terrible wrath that might have precipitated some rash action.

Only a few key people knew about the CIA plot to assassinate Castro. One was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who was his brother's personal watchdog over the CIA. It has now been established that Robert Kennedy was briefed on May 7, 1962, about the attempt to use underworld killers to knock off Castro.

Two days later, Robert Kennedy cautioned the CIA not to go ahead with the assassination without consulting him. Since Robert Kennedy rode herd on the CIA, it must be assumed that he was kept advised of subsequent assassination attempts. However, there is no documentary evidence of this.

Records now available show that Robert Kennedy informed FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover of the plot on May 10,

1962. Yet neither Kennedy nor Hoover later divulged this important information to the Warren Commission.

Of course, various CIA officials also knew about the assassination scheme. Not the least of them was the late CIA chief, Allen W. Dulles, who approved the original plan. He later served on the Warren Commission, yet he sat silently throughout the investigation without mentioning the Cuban angle.

Within hours of President Kennedy's death, the U.S. embassy cabled information from Mexico City suggesting that the Cubans may have been behind the assassination. Our sources say that the CIA developed similar information in Washington.

The first person to reach Robert Kennedy's side after the shooting was CIA Director John A. McCone, who remained alone with the Attorney General at his McLean, Va., home for nearly three hours.

McCone swore to us that Castro's name was never mentioned during the three hours. But CIA records show that the next day, McCone not only mentioned Castro to the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, but briefed him on the information from Mexico City.

Yet no one brought the Cuban connection to the attention of the Warren Commission. We were the first to get word of the anti-Castro plot to Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commission chairman, four years later.

We are now free to reveal our role in the drama. Two of our confidential sources, CIA agent William Harvey and mobster John Rosselli, are dead. A third source, attorney Edward P. Mor-

gan, has waived the confidentiality we had promised him.

Morgan told us in January, 1967, about the CIA-Mafia assassination plot against Castro. He raised the possibility that the plot could have backfired against President Kennedy. There were suspicious circumstances, he pointed out, indicating that Castro may have learned of the attempts on his life and may have retaliated against Kennedy.

Morgan refused to identify his sources because it would have violated the attorney-client privilege. But he was an attorney of such stature that we didn't doubt his word. He had been chief inspector of the FBI. He had directed the historic congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor bombing. Later, he ran the investigation into the excesses of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

We got Morgan's permission, to write a cautious story. We confirmed the general outlines from a CIA source. Then on March 3, 1967, we wrote that Robert Kennedy "may have approved an assassination plot, which then possibly backfired against his late brother."

The next day, according to records now available, Kennedy's secretary called for a copy of the May 7, 1962, memo, which summarized the briefing he had received on the assassination plot.

On March 7, 1967, we reported more details. "A reported CIA plan in 1963 to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro," we wrote, "... may have resulted in a counterplot by Castro to assassinate President Kennedy."

DETROIT, MICHIGAN
NEWS

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S - 848,278

AUG 22 1976

French terrorist reportedly in Dallas when JFK was slain

By SETH KANTOR

News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — U S intelligence sources have now revealed an undercover international manhunt was conducted in 1964 for a mysterious French army deserter who reportedly had been in Dallas the day President Kennedy was assassinated there, and then was expelled from the United States by authorities the next day.

The manhunt was triggered by the French government, according to a March 5, 1964, FBI communique to the CIA, because it was feared in Paris that the deserter, former army Capt. Jean Suetra, was preparing to assassinate France's President Charles de Gaulle.

In the communique, the FBI asked the CIA what it might know about Suetra. The CIA had several details on Suetra, an internationally

known terrorist who had been operating out of Algeria as an officer in the Secret Army Organization (OAS).

The OAS had been involved in several assassination attempts on De Gaulle. French intelligence agents were fearful that Suetra would make another attempt to kill De Gaulle when the French leader flew to Mexico on March 15 for a round of meetings with Mexico's President Adolfo Lopez Mateos.

French agents met with the FBI in New York City on March 5 and said they had learned Suetra had been in Fort Worth on the morning of Nov. 22, 1963, when President Kennedy had been there.

Suetra — who also went under the names of Michael Roux and Michael Hertz, according to CIA files — then was in Dallas that afternoon when Mr. Kennedy was shot.

According to the French agents, Suetra was apprehended shortly after the shooting and "was expelled from the United States, at Fort Worth or Dallas, 18 hours after the assassination."

The French were especially anxious to learn the reason for Suetra's expulsion and his destination, which they believed had been either Mexico or Canada.

In return, the CIA made available to the French government information it had on the mysterious Suetra from three different CIA files, as well as an apparently recent photograph of him.

Whatever information on Suetra the CIA turned over to the French still remains hidden from the public.

But no overt attempt was made on the life of De Gaulle, who was under heavy protection during his three-day visit to Mexico later that month.

Suetra's identity and his reported apprehension in Texas, along with his expulsion from the United States on Nov. 23, 1963, have remained hidden from the American public until now.

The CIA has released only the bare-bones information among a number of documents it recently has made available under the federal Freedom of Information Law.

Washington attorney Bernard Fensterwald Jr. has been waging a lengthy battle with the CIA, using the federal law to get the intelligence agency to make public its long-secret files on the Kennedy assassination.

The Detroit News has asked the French government, through the French embassy in Washington, to comment on Suetra. But two different embassy officials say there are no current files on him.

Also asked to comment was the Justice Department's Immigration and Naturalization Service, the agency that would have been responsible for Suetra's deportation.

Agency spokesman Vernon Jervis said "a computer search of our files has turned up nothing on Suetra under any of the three names he used."

However, Jervis said that if Suetra had been asked to sign a statement of "voluntary departure," admitting that he had reached the United States under illegal circumstances, "there would not necessarily be any record available today."